

few of them, being entirely surrounded, were taken prisoners. A few escaped."

Gen. Rhodes officially reported of Iverson's Brigade: "His men fought and died like heroes. His dead lay in a distinctly marked line of battle. His left was overpowered and many of his men, being surrounded, were captured."

The Brigade Commander, Gen. Alfred Iverson, did not go into the battle, and was relieved of his command.

The next severe campaign was in May, 1864, at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and on in front of Gen. Grant's army to the Second Cold Harbor—one of the roughest campaigns that Gen. Lee's army ever experienced. The Company lost in that campaign, David Blalock and Henry Byrd killed, and several wounded.

The regiment of which this company was a part was highly spoken of for its action on May 15th, 1864, by Gen. Lee. This is what he said:

Headquarters Army Northern Virginia, May 16, 1864.  
Sir:—

Yesterday evening the enemy penetrated a part of our line and planted his colors upon the temporary breastworks erected by our troops. He was immediately repulsed, and among the brave men who met him, the 20th North Carolina, under Col. T. F. Toon, of the brigade commanded by Gen. R. D. Johnson, captured his flag. It was brought to me by Major John S. Brooks of that Regiment who received his promotion for gallantry in the battle of Chancellorsville, with the request that it be given to Governor Vance. I take great pleasure in complying with the wish of the gallant captors, and respectfully ask that it be granted, and that these colors be presented to the State of North Carolina as another evidence of the valor and devotion that have made her name eminent in the armies of the Confederacy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. E. LEE, General.

Hon. Secretary of War, Richmond, Va.

About the middle of June, 1864, Gen. Early was detached from Gen. Lee's army, and sent on the famous Early and

Sheridan Valley Campaign. The company was a part of Gen. Early's troops that was at Harper's Ferry on July 4, 1864, and captured and enjoyed the Federals' Fourth of July dinner. From there across the Potomac at Williamsport into Maryland for the third time, and assisted in defeating Gen. Lew Wallace at Monocacy Bridge, then on towards Washington City near enough to see the dome of the capitol, thence back across the Potomac river into the valley, and participated in the battles of Winchester, Strassburg, Cedar Mountain and other battles of that noted campaign. The company lost in that campaign, two men killed, William Benton (then ensign of Regiment) and Jonah Brock, besides several wounded and two or three captured.

The company was a part of the "thin grey line" of North Carolina moving off in retreat that Gen. Bradley T. Johnson saw at Winchester, on the 19th day of September, 1864; and went to its assistance. He gives a thrilling account of what he witnessed:

"There was not a fence, nor a house, nor a bush, nor a tree to obscure the view. Away off, more than two miles, we could see the crest of the hill covered with thousands of Yankee cavalry, and five hundred yards in front of them was a thin grey line moving off in retreat, solidly and with perfect coolness and self possession. As soon as I got to realize what was going on, I quickened our gait and when within a mile broke into a gallop. The scene was as plain as day. A regiment of cavalry would deploy into line, their bugles would sound a charge, and they would swoop down on the thin grey line of North Carolinians. The instant the Yankee bugle would sound, North Carolina would halt, face to the rear rank, wait until the horses got within one hundred yards and then fire as deliberately and coolly as firing volleys on parade drill. The cavalry would break and scamper back and North Carolina would 'about face' and continue her march in retreat as solemnly, stubbornly and with as much dignity and discipline as if marching in review. But we got there just in time. Cavalry aids the Tar Heels. Certainly half a dozen charges had been made at the thin grey line in